GORDON & JACOBS

DAVID P. GORDON ADMITTED IN CT AND NY GORDON & JACOBSON, P.C. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

NORBODAL .Z DIVAG

LN ONA YN NI DETTIMOA OF COUNSEL:

65 WOODS END ROAD STAMPORD, CONNECTICUT 06905

THOMAS A. GALLAGHER LN GNA YN NI DETTIMOA

TEL: 203-329-1160 LITIGATION FAX: 203-329-1180

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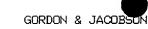
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Taras et al.

Group Art Unit: 3731

Serial No.: 10/076,678

Examiner: Jessica Baxter

Filed: Feb. 15, 2002

Attorney Docket: TAR-001

Title: Distraction Pin for Fracture Fixation

OCT 1 6 2003

OFFICIAL

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile on this day to 703-305-3590 to Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313.

> David S. Jacobson Reg. No. 39,235

Honorable Commissioner for Patents Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

This is a timely reply to a Final Office Action dated September 10, 2003. Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-12 and 14-32 is respectfully requested. As no claims have been added, and no extension fee is required, no fees are enclosed herewith. If any fee is due, please charge the fee to deposit account no. 07-1732.